



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

March 4, 2009

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local governments - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony before you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

CCM has concerns regarding Committee Senate Bill 155 "*An Act Requiring Training In Highway Work Zone Safety.*"

S.B 155 section 3(b), allows each local and regional board of education the option to provide a course of instruction in motor vehicle operation and highway safety on a secondary school level, yet mandates the course structure and curriculum to include not less than 15 minutes concerning the responsibilities of a motor vehicle operator when driving through a highway work zone. Section 4 of the bill requires the Division of the State Police within the Department of Public Safety, the Police Officer Standards Training Council, or a municipal police department in the state to provide a minimum of two hours of training on highway work zone safety.

CCM appreciates the intent of this bill. However, we are concerned that this proposal would have fiscal impacts on municipal resources -- particularly as local officials struggle to sustain jobs and services amidst a recession and growing deficits. While 15 additional minutes of driver education training seems minimal, adding two hours to the already packed police-training requirements would necessitate additional costs by municipalities and the State. Training requirements, while necessary, already obligate critical local resources -- resources which are becoming scarcer as the affects of the recession unfold.

CCM urges the Committee to **obtain a detailed fiscal note** on this proposal to determine the full potential impact on municipal budgets and personnel before taking action on this bill.

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If you have any questions, please contact Donna Hamzy, Legislative Analyst
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